

BIG CYPRESS

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

2005-06

REGULATIONS SUMMARY AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
An Equal Opportunity Agency
MyFWC.com

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area. **Regulations that are new or differ substantially from last year are shown in bold print.** Area users should familiarize themselves with all regulations. For exact wording of the wildlife laws and regulations, see the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's wildlife code, on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries. This brochure, the Florida Hunting Regulations handbook, and quota permit application forms should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities. These publications are available from any Commission office, county tax collector and at MyFWC.com.

Persons using wildlife management areas are required to have appropriate licenses, permits and stamps and display them upon request of any Commission employee. The following persons are exempt from all license and permit requirements (except for quota permits when listed as "no exemptions", recreational use permits and the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp [federal duck stamp]): Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older; residents who possess a Florida Resident Disabled Person Hunting and Fishing Certificate; residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida, while home on leave for 30 days or less, upon submission of orders; and children under 16 years of age. Children under 16 years of age are exempt from the federal duck stamp.

Hunting, trapping and fishing licenses, and wildlife management area, archery, muzzleloading gun, wild turkey and state waterfowl permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, private license agents, the Internet at MyFWC.com/license or by telephone at 1-888-486-8356. A no-cost Migratory Bird Permit is available when purchasing a hunting license. Any waterfowl hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a federal duck stamp; available at most post offices or at duckstamp.com.

QUOTA PERMIT INFORMATION:

Archery (Deep Lake Unit) - 200, no-cost, special quota permits for each of 3 hunts (Nov. 12-20, 21-27 and Dec. 22 - Jan. 1).

Muzzleloading Gun (Bear Island Unit) - 200, special quota permits for 1 hunt (Oct. 8 - 16).

Muzzleloading Gun (Bear Island Unit) - 200, daily quota permits are available each day (Oct. 17 - 23). Permits are available, first-come, first-served, at the check station.

General Gun - 200 (Bear Island Unit), 1000 (Stairsteps Unit), 250 (Loop Unit), 300 (Corn Dance Unit), 500 (Turner River Unit), no-cost, regular quota permits for each of 3 hunts (Nov. 12-20, 21-27 and Dec. 22 - Jan. 1).

General Gun (Bear Island Unit) - 200, daily quota permits are available each day (Nov. 28 - Dec. 21). Permits are available, first-come, first-served, at the check station.

Permit application: **Hunters must submit electronic applications for quota and special-opportunity permits at a license agent, county tax collector's office or online at MyFWC.com.** Most quota hunt permits are issued during a random drawing, which includes all applications submitted during the times and dates

listed below. Any remaining permits are issued first-come, first-served. A limited number of antlerless permits may be available for selected Wildlife Management Areas. **Refer to the quota or special-opportunity permit summary for information regarding the issuance of those permits.**

A list of available permits may be obtained 1 - 2 weeks before each application period from FWC offices, tax collectors, license agents and online at MyFWC.com. Application for random drawings begins 10:00 a.m. eastern time on the first day of the application period and ends midnight eastern time on the last day. Regular and Special quota permit applications may be submitted June 1 - 11.

Transfer of permits: Quota and antlerless deer permits are transferable, except that any exempt permit is transferable only to another exempt person. The sale or purchase of any quota hunt permit or antlerless deer permit is prohibited.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV) PERMIT:

NOTICE: All vehicles, including airboats, used off-road on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area shall have a National Park Service ORV permit. Vehicle operators are responsible for knowing National Park Service regulations that apply to ORV use in the preserve. Please contact the Big Cypress National Preserve office, HCR 61, Box 11, Ochopee, FL 33943, 239-695-1201, regarding vehicle use regulations. The National Park Service ORV permit is available at the Oasis Visitor Center.

GENERAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS:

All general laws and regulations relating to wild animal life or freshwater aquatic life shall apply unless specifically exempted for this area. Hunting or the taking of wildlife or fish on this area shall be allowed only during the open seasons, and in accordance with the following regulations.

1. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material as an outer garment, above the waistline. This is not required during an archery-only season.
2. Taking of spotted fawn, swimming deer or roosted turkey is prohibited. Species legal to take are listed under each season.
3. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this area.
4. Driving a metal object into any tree, or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven, is prohibited.
5. No person shall cut, damage, or remove any natural, man-made or cultural resource without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
6. Taking or attempting to take any game with the aid of live decoys, recorded game calls or sounds, set guns, artificial light, net, trap, snare, drug or poison is prohibited.
7. The wanton and willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.
8. Hunting, fishing or trapping is prohibited on any portion of the area posted as "CLOSED" to those activities.

9. People, dogs, vehicles and other recreational equipment are prohibited in areas posted as "Closed to Public Access" by FWC administrative action.
10. Taking or herding wildlife from any motorized vehicle, aircraft or boat which is under power is prohibited, until power and movement from that power, has ceased.
11. Most game may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset (see exceptions under each season).
12. The release of any animal is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
13. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer or turkey on the area.
14. The planting or introduction of any non-native plant is prohibited, without written authorization of the landowner or primary land manager.
15. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.
16. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse, or in any way litter in the area.
17. It is unlawful to set fire to any forest, grass or woodlands.
18. A Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Law Enforcement Officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat, in accordance with law.

AREA SPECIFIC REGULATIONS:

1. Construction of buildings or other structures is prohibited, unless permitted by the National Park Service.
2. Fires other than campfires at designated campsites or back country campsites are prohibited. All fire must be extinguished prior to leaving a campsite.
3. The removal of any plant is prohibited.
4. It is illegal to cut or damage cattle fences.
5. No person shall remove plants, rocks, minerals, animal life, other natural resources or parts thereof without written authorization from the Executive Director of the FWC and a written permit from the National Park Service.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND VEHICLES:

1. Open to public access year-round.
2. North of I-75 all persons shall enter and exit the area at the designated entrance on the north end of Turner River Road or designated entrances along I-75.
3. Vehicle use on Eleven-mile Road or the Florida Trail is prohibited. Vehicles may cross Eleven-mile Road at marked designated crossing points (maps are available at the Visitor Center).
4. Only vehicles with pneumatic tires may be operated on Jetport Road and parking vehicles is prohibited on the paved portion of Jetport Road.
5. Parked vehicles may not obstruct a road, gate or firelane.
6. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of any wildlife management area that has been designated as closed to vehicular traffic.
7. All airboats must be equipped with an orange flag at least 10 inches wide and 12 inches long and displayed at a minimum height of 10 feet above the bottom of the vessel before use on the area.
8. Public access inside any fenced portion of the Jetport property is prohibited.
9. All vehicles, including airboats, used off-road on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area shall have a National Park Service ORV permit.

HUNTERS AND CHECK STATIONS:

1. Hunting equipment and dogs may be taken onto the WMA after 8 a.m. the day before the opening of a season and shall be removed by 6 p.m. one day after the end of the season.
2. Hunters shall check in and out at the same designated check station when entering or exiting the area, and check all game taken.
3. Hunters using the Bear Island Unit shall enter and exit only at the designated entrance at the north end of Turner River Road or designated entrances along I-75. The I-75 entrances are walk-in only and equipped with self-service check stations.
4. Hunters shall obtain a check station pass when entering the area and retain it in their possession while hunting.
5. Deer, wild hog and turkey may be divided or consumed in the field but each portion shall be tagged with the license number of the person taking the game and be readily traceable to the portion bearing sex identification.
6. It is important that game stay intact as much as possible and be brought to the check station as soon as possible. Important biological data are obtained from the following animals and parts: deer (head, heart, kidney, liver), hog (head) and turkey (wings and tail). If game is processed in the field, the above items should be brought to the check station along with the meat.
7. All deer jawbones shall be saved and brought to the check station.

GUNS:

1. The use of guns, other than muzzleloading guns, or archery equipment is prohibited in the Deep Lake Unit.
2. Possession of a gun is allowed only during periods when hunting with a gun is permitted.
3. Hunting with a gun and light is prohibited.

4. Muzzleloading guns used for taking deer must fire a .40 caliber or larger bullet, or be 20 gauge or larger if firing two or more balls.
5. Possession of a loaded, capped or primed firearm, or discharge of a firearm on, from or across any campsite or check station area is prohibited.
6. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.
7. No person shall have a gun under his control while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
8. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurve bows), crossbows (during the general gun season or by permit only) or falconry may be used.
9. For taking migratory game, only shotguns, bow and arrow (not crossbows), and falconry may be used. Shotguns shall not be larger than 10 gauge and shall be incapable of holding more than three shells in the magazine and chamber combined.
10. Firearms using rimfire or non-expanding, full metal jacket (military ball) ammunition are prohibited for taking deer.
11. Fully automatic or silencer-equipped firearms, centerfire semi-automatic rifles having a magazine capable of holding more than five rounds, explosive or drug-injecting devices and setguns are prohibited.
12. Hunting or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from the rights-of-way of Burns Road; County Roads 839, 841, 837; State Roads 84 or 94; or U.S. 41 is prohibited.

DOGS:

1. Hunting deer or wild hog with dogs is prohibited.
2. Hunting with dogs is prohibited, except bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers.
3. All dogs are prohibited in the Loop Unit.
4. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest any wildlife during any period in which the taking of wildlife by the use of dogs is prohibited.
5. Leashed dogs may not be used for trailing wounded game.
6. The possession of dogs (other than bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers for hunting purposes) is prohibited except as authorized by National Park Service regulations.

CAMPING:

1. Camping is permitted in accordance with the regulations of the National Park Service.
2. Camping is permitted at designated campsites on all units.
3. Primitive camping is not limited to designated campsites on all units except on the Bear Island Unit.
4. Camping on Bear Island Unit is permitted only at designated campsites by the use of tents, trailers and self-propelled vehicles.
5. Draining or dumping refuse or waste from any trailer or other vehicle is prohibited.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer - Daily limit 1, annual limit 2 (all seasons combined).
2. Wild hog - Daily limit 1, annual limit 2 (all seasons combined).
3. Turkey - Daily limit 1, annual limit 2, possession limit 2.
4. Gray squirrel, quail and rabbit - Daily limit 12, possession limit 24 for each game species.
5. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria - No bag limits.
6. Migratory birds - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

ARCHERY:

September 3 - October 2 (all Units).

November 12 - January 1 (Deep Lake Unit only)

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting Deep Lake Unit Nov. 12-20, 21-27 or Dec. 22 - Jan. 1), hunting license, wildlife management area permit, archery permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog with shoulder height of 15 inches or more, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Archery Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.
2. Possession of firearms or crossbows is prohibited, except that centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take in all units except Deep Lake Unit (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).
3. Taking ducks is prohibited in the Bear Island and Deep Lake Units during the early duck season.

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

October 8 - 23 (except Deep Lake Unit).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting Bear Island Unit Oct. 8-16) or daily quota permit (if hunting Bear Island Unit Oct. 17-23), hunting license, wildlife management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit and migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds).

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog with shoulder height of 15 inches or more, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.
2. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed, except that centerfire shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory birds when one or more species are legal to take (see Migratory Bird section and the current Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet).

GENERAL GUN:

November 12 - January 1 (except Deep Lake Unit).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting Nov. 12-20, 21-27 or Dec. 22 - Jan. 1) or daily quota permit (if hunting Bear Island Unit Nov. 28 - Dec. 21), hunting license, wildlife management area permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - Deer with at least one antler 5 inches or more in length, wild hog with a shoulder height of 15 inches or more, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the General Gun Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply. Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.

SMALL GAME:

January 2 - February 6

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory birds), and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk, nutria and migratory birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.
2. The use of guns other than muzzleloading guns or archery equipment is prohibited in the Deep Lake Unit.
3. Possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

TRAPPING: Prohibited.

SPRING TURKEY:

March 4 - April 9

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Hunting license, wildlife management area permit and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Take - Bearded turkey or gobblers.

Regulations Unique to the Spring Turkey Season - In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Regulations shall apply.

1. The use of guns other than muzzleloading guns or archery equipment is prohibited in the Deep Lake Unit.
2. Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.
3. The taking of any other animal is prohibited.

MIGRATORY BIRDS:

Ducks may be hunted during the early duck season in all units except Bear Island and Deep Lake Units. Rails, common moorhens, mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established by the Commission for these species that coincide with the archery, muzzleloading gun, general gun or small game season.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Quota permit (if hunting during any quota period), hunting license, wildlife management area permit, migratory bird permit, and state waterfowl permit and federal duck stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

Legal to Take - See Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Birds - In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Regulations shall apply.

1. Hunting with bird dogs or waterfowl retrievers is permitted except in the Loop Unit.

2. The use of lead shot for taking ducks and coots is prohibited.
3. Centerfire shotguns are permitted during established area seasons when one or more migratory birds are legal to take, except in the Deep Lake Unit and when prohibited by specific area rule.

FISHING AND FROGGING:

Permitted year-round.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements - Fishing license (not required when frogging).

Legal to Take - See Florida Freshwater Fishing Regulations Summary.

Regulations Unique to Fishing and Frogging - All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations and General Freshwater Fishing Regulations shall apply. Possession of guns is permitted only during periods when hunting is allowed.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 must have passed a Commission-approved hunter-safety course prior to being issued a hunting license.
2. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission South Region Office at 561-625-5122 (TDD 800-955-8771).

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RULES AND INFORMATION:

This area is a national preserve and Big Cypress National Preserve regulations shall apply. For further information, contact the Big Cypress National Preserve, HCR 61 Box 11, Ochopee, Florida 34141, 239-695-1201 or <http://www/nps.gov/bicy/>. For current hunter information call the 24-hour telephone line 239-695-2000.

1. Certain time limits may apply to camping. Please contact the Big Cypress Preserve for current camping regulations and limitations on the maximum number of days an individual may camp.
2. Any open container of an alcoholic beverage is prohibited in or on all motor vehicles, including off-road vehicles and airboats.
3. Loaded weapons cannot be carried in/on a motor vehicle, including off-road vehicles and moving airboats. Weapons in a vehicle must be packed, cased or stored, not available for ready use.
4. Weapons cannot be discharged from a motor vehicle, including off-road vehicles. A weapon may be discharged from an airboat when the vessel is not under power and is stopped.
5. All private property owners in the preserve are required to obtain a burn permit from the National Park Service prior to conducting any burn on their property. Permits can be obtained by calling 239-695-1201 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily.
6. Target practice and random discharge of firearms is prohibited.
7. The preserve is closed to the viewing of wildlife with an artificial light, except that artificial lights may be used during frogging activities.
8. The destruction, detachment or removal of any natural or cultural feature or non-renewable resource is prohibited.
9. Camping equipment and property left unattended for a period of more than 24 hours must be marked and identified in a prominent location with owner's name, address and telephone number.
10. Dead wood lying on the ground may be collected as fuel for campfires within the preserve.
11. Commercial taking of frogs is prohibited. Recreational frogging for personal use is permitted.
12. ORV use is prohibited between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
13. Primitive campsites must be located at least 1/2 mile from and out of sight of designated state or county roads.
14. Dogs and cats under physical "constraint" are permitted only within 50 feet of established "front" county roads and parking areas except dogs may be used as authorized by state regulations for hunting purposes (bird dogs and retrievers only) and dogs may be transported by private property owners within the preserve when and as authorized by a Special Use Access Permit.
15. The taking, feeding or intentional disturbance of wildlife (including snakes and other reptiles) is prohibited except as authorized by specific hunting regulations.

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

If you see law violators or suspicious activities, contact your nearest Commission regional office or call 1-888-404-FWCC. You may qualify for a cash reward from the Wildlife Alert Reward Association.

The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The project described in this publication is part of a program funded by federal dollars under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Federal funds pay \$2,357,686 or 20 percent of the cost of the program.

BIG CYPRESS

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

(565,848 acres)

Collier, Dade, & Monroe Counties

